



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: WY111

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Weston County, Wyoming

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Newcastle, WY 82701

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

According to the AVMA website (Dec. 2008), Weston County, WY contains 47,569 food animals and a single practicing food animal veterinarian (average of 47,569 food animals/veterinarian). However, the situation is even more critical; the single food animal practitioner (Dr. Peter Vorpahl) has serious health problems and needs to retire soon. He has identified a soon-to-graduate veterinary student who is interested in working in his practice and eventually buying it out. However, this student has substantial student loan debt and he cannot afford to practice in a rural setting like Newcastle, WY without student loan assistance.

We hope that a new veterinarian will assist producers in the area meet their regulatory requirements, preventative medicine needs and assist them when disease outbreaks occur. Many producers cannot find a veterinarian to carry out regulatory veterinary requirements or other routine veterinary needs.

We expect this new veterinarian to commit at least 40% of full time equivalent hours (i.e. 16 hours/week) to food animal medicine. They may not be able to maintain an exclusive food animal practice due to the rural nature of the area and the expectation that a veterinarian provides services to all species in need. Since there is only one veterinary practice in Weston County it must be prepared to handle all cases.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Newcastle, WY and the surrounding area of Weston County is located in the western part of the Black Hills, some of the prettiest country in North America. There are great outdoor opportunities, including world class hunting, fishing, and rock climbing. This is attractive to many veterinarians; however, the area is also economically depressed, so veterinarians receive less remuneration for their services than in most parts of the country.

Due to the impending retirement of Dr. Vorpahl (the only veterinarian in the county), and the high number of food animals, there is a great need for food animal services. He confirmed that when he retires, no one will offer food animal services in the area for most of the year. Based on that discussion and the discussion with producers in the area we believe a veterinarian should offer pregnancy diagnoses and other reproductive services and consultation. Additionally, there is a need for diagnostic services and infectious disease and nutrition/toxicology management and consultation in addition to regulatory services.

Any veterinarian coming into Weston County must be prepared to work long hours and drive great distances often in bad weather. They must be self-reliant and have a good understanding of cow-calf operations.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The state of Wyoming instituted a student loan repayment program to recruit new food animal veterinarians moving into underserved areas in 2008. The Black Hills including Weston County was identified as such an area. We were successful in recruiting a veterinarian into the Black Hills (Hulett, Crook County) in 2009. However, that position is too far north to offer many food animal services in Weston County. We are confident that with student debt assistance we can attract a veterinarian into this community.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The current food animal veterinary work force is unable to meet the demand in Weston County Wyoming, and the problem will get much worse when Dr. Vorpahl retires. The producers in the area are unable to deal with livestock disease issues; ultimately this may force them out of business. This would not only reduce the nation's supply of beef and lamb, but many of these existing ranches would subsequently be sold and subdivided. This would impact the region, state, and nation as the area is considered a national treasure for its abundance of wildlife and natural beauty. Such development would have a great and irreversible impact on the wildlife and other natural resources of the area.

Although it is a small community, the area does have rodeos, bull sales, other livestock events and a fair amount of tourism. The state veterinarian is concerned about animal rights or other groups undermining these events by introducing an infectious disease to the livestock. Additionally, it is possible for an accidental disease introduction at these events. With no full-time

veterinarians in the area, it would be impossible to manage such an outbreak. This could decimate the livestock industry of the area and could have public health consequences if the agent were zoonotic.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement.

We were unable to locate solicitation information on this program. While we believe the area may qualify for a “service in emergency” agreement we also note that the shortage experienced in Weston County is a long-term problem and must be dealt with using that perspective.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Jim Logan

Title: Wyoming State Veterinarian

Organization: Wyoming Livestock Board
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Email: (307) 777-7515

Telephone Number: (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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